

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Virginia

*World Trade Center 757/441-6331
Suite 8000, 101 West Main Street
Norfolk, Va. 23510*

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2004
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

For Further Information Contact:
Deanna Warren (757) 441-6331

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today the unsealing of a 31-count indictment charging John Maurice Henoud, age 51, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Sharon Kay Moore, age 43, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Russell D. Williford, age 70, of Chesapeake, Virginia; Ralph Collins, age 67, of Chesapeake, Virginia; Ronald Clark Morrison, age 50, of Virginia Beach, Virginia; Matthew John Russo, age 40, of Portsmouth, Virginia; and Douglas Harold Decker, age 61, of Suffolk, Virginia, with conspiracy to commit mail fraud, wire fraud, use of fictitious name, conspiracy to commit money laundering, and money laundering.

If convicted, these individuals face possible sentences of up to twenty years.

It is alleged that Henoud and his co-conspirators falsely represented that they were collecting money for charitable causes, when, in fact, they were converting the money for their own use. The indictment alleges that this began when Henoud formed the "Youth at Risk Foundation" (YARF) and Just Sports Publications, purportedly non-profit organizations that claimed to provide charitable services for disadvantaged youth.

By the year 2000 several sub-organizations under the Youth at Risk Foundation and Just Sports Publications falsely claimed to provide programs which would develop young athletes; sponsor middle school basketball tournaments; give at-risk youth exposure to new technologies; teen talks with adult mentors; musical instruction with mentoring and drop-out prevention; and a program committed to promoting multi-cultural co-existence.

Funds for the programs were solicited on various websites, by telephone calls, and advertising sales. The donations are alleged to have been collected in person, by mail, and wire transmissions. The indictment further alleges that numerous checks, consisting of the fraudulent proceeds collected, were cashed at Bunny's Pawn Shop located in Suffolk, Virginia, during the course of the various schemes.

Other fraudulent schemes alleged in the indictment include, a sporting events program; a September 11 scheme; Hampton Road Heisman/Lombardi Awards scheme; and a Senior Shopping Guide scheme.

These schemes were so complex, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has not been able to identify each and every victim. Mr. McNulty asks that if you believe you are a victim, please contact Jennifer Stacoffe, Victim Specialist, Federal Bureau of Investigation, at 757-455-2649.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Assistant United States Attorneys Michael Moore and Joseph DePadilla are prosecuting the case.

###